BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA ADDICTIVE DISORDER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

IN THE MATTER OF
CATHERINE CLARK

: FINAL ORDER

DOCKET NO. 15-001

LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR NO. 1396

This matter came for hearing in an open meeting of the Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority ("ADRA") on March 20, 2015, at the ADRA office.

Present were:

ADRA members Jean Hartzog, Acting Chair; Bernadine Williams; JoAn Brown; and Shaneeka Harrison.

Celia R. Cangelosi, serving as Complaint Counsel;

Catherine Clark, in proper person.

The ADRA considered the pleadings, evidence, testimony, and argument made and a result thereof, the ADRA makes the following rulings:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Catherine Clark made application to the ADRA for CIT status on August 26, 2005 (Board 1) and September 15, 2005 (Board 3), giving a sobriety date of May 10, 2004, less than two years prior to the date of her application.

2. Catherine Clark requested that the ADRA waive the sobriety length requirement. (Board 2)
3. On or about November 26, 2005, the ADRA granted CIT status to Catherine Clark (waiving the sobriety length requirement). (Board 4)

4. On or about March 31, 2007, the CIT status of Catherine Clark expired and was not renewed.

5. Catherine Clark later suffered a relapse and has reported a subsequent sobriety date of November 18, 2007.

6. In 2008, Catherine Clark submitted a request to the ADRA to allow her to renew her CIT status despite not maintaining two years of sobriety prior there to.

7. On or about September 18, 2008, ADRA denied Catherine Clark’s second request to waive sobriety length requirement and allow her to obtain CIT status. (Board 5)

8. On or about June 1, 2009, Catherine Clark applied to the ADRA for Addiction Treatment Assistant (ATA) status. (Board 6)

9. On or about July 1, 2009, the ADRA granted Catherine Clark ATA status. (Board 7)

10. Catherine Clark made application to the ADRA for licensing as an LAC, listing a sobriety date of November 18, 2007. (Board 12)

11. Catherine Clark was originally licensed by the Board as an LAC on June 25, 2011, the license to be effective until June 30, 2013. (Board 13)

12. Catherine Clark later admitted that she suffered a relapse in May of 2013 (Board 4) through at least December 18, 2013. (Board 14)

13. On June 30, 2013, the Louisiana LAC license of Catherine Clark lapsed for non-renewal.

14. On or about January 2, 2014, Catherine Clark made Application For Renewal of her Louisiana LAC license. (Board 14)

16. On the renewal application, Catherine Clark listed a sobriety date of December 18, 2013. (Board 14)

17. In the January 2, 2014 letter attached to the application for renewal, Catherine Clark reported a relapse in May of 2013 and contended she was undertaking measures to maintain sobriety. The letter indicated a desire to enter into an Impaired Professionals Program with the ADRA. (Board 15)

18. By letters dated February 11 and 26, 2014, sent to her address of record, Catherine Clark was advised that her relapse, as self-reported, may constitute a violation of the ADRA Practice Act and Catherine Clark was given opportunity to submit a written statement to demonstrate compliance with the ADRA. (Board 16 and Board 17)

19. In response to those letters, in a letter dated March 4, 2014, Catherine Clark then revealed her residential treatment at Rayville Recovery from January 23, 2014 through February 20, 2014, and claimed she was then in after care and attending AA meetings daily. (Board 18)

20. By letter dated March 18, 2014, sent to her address of record, Catherine Clark was given notice of an informal hearing to be held on March 28, 2014.

21. Catherine Clark attended the informal hearing before ADRA Complaint Investigator Paul Schoen on March 28, 2014, at which time she claimed sobriety. Paul Schoen asked that Catherine Clark provide treatment and other records to the ADRA office by May 2, 2014. (Board 20)

22. On or about May 29, 2014, (after the May 2, 2014 due date), Catherine Clark provided only some of the records requested by Paul Schoen.
23. After review of the records provided, Paul Schoen, ADRA Complaint Investigator, authorized the renewal of Catherine Clark’s LAC license based on Catherine Clark’s agreement to send the ADRA office sheets verifying her attendance at three 12-step meetings per week until the end of February, 2015, along with proof of drug screens and aftercare, all signed by her sponsor. See letter to Catherine Clark dated May 27, 2014. (Board 22)

24. Catherine Clark was advised in the May 27, 2014, letter that non-compliance with the terms set forth therein (send the ADRA office sheets verifying her attendance at three 12-step meetings per week until the end of February, 2015, along with proof of drug screens and aftercare, all signed by her sponsor) could result in suspension or revocation of her LAC license.

25. Thereafter, Catherine Clark only twice sent any reports to the ADRA office, on August 5, 2014 (Board 24) and on September 5, 2014 (Board 25), the last reported activity of any kind ending August 18, 2014.

26. By letter dated December 12, 2014, sent to her address of record, Catherine Clark was noticed for informal hearing on January 16, 2015. Catherine Clark received the letter on December 18, 2014 at her address of record but failed to attend the January 16, 2015 informal hearing. (Board 26)

27. On February 10, 2015, Catherine Clark was notice of the Formal Hearing scheduled for March 20, 2015 in this matter by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Catherine Clark’s address of record. The certified mailing was received by Catherine Clark on or about February 12, 2015. (Board 27)

28. On or about March 20, 2015, Catherine Clark sent an email to the ADRA office advising she had “received the registered letter concerning the Board meeting on 3/20/15 at 1pm and will be attending.” (Board 28)
29. The ADRA office has incurred attorney fees of Complaint Counsel regarding the Catherine Clark matter of $2,244.38 through March 18, 2015. (Board 29)

30. Catherine Clark did/did not appear at the March 20, 2015 hearing.

31. Catherine Clark was/was not represented by counsel at the March 20, 2015 hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent, CATHERINE CLARK, LAC No. 1396, is found to be in violation of the following statutes and regulations:

La. R.S. 37:3390.3(A)(5): Impaired in delivery of professional services because of substance abuse, compulsive gambling, or because of medical or psychiatric disability;

La. R.S. 37:3390.3(A)(11): Being grossly negligent in practice as a licensed, certified or registered professional;

La. R.S. 37:3390.3(A)(13): Has violated any provisions of this Chapter; and

La. R.S. 37:3930.3(A)(15): Guilty of unprofessional conduct, including departing from, or failing to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice (actual injury to a client need not be established).

FINAL ORDER

In an open meeting of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on March 20, 2015, the following order was rendered:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that LAC No. 1396 issued to CATHERINE CLARK is revoked permanently;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that CATHERINE CLARK is ordered to pay the following to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority: (1) a fine (administrative fine) in the amount of $2,000.00; and (2) as authorized by La. R.S.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that CATHERINE CLARK is ordered to pay the following to the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority: (1) a fine (administrative fine) in the amount of $2,000.00; and (2) as authorized by La. R.S. 37:3390.3D, CATHERINE CLARK shall pay all costs incurred in connection with the proceeding, including but not limited to investigation, court reporting, attorney fees and court costs.

ADDICTIVE DISORDER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

By: Jean Hartzog, CPP – Acting Chair

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Board Order has been given to Respondent, CATHERINE CLARK, at her address of record, 200 Breared Street, Monroe, LA 71201, by first class mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested No. 7003 1010 0002 1669 4581.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 16th day of April, 2015.

LaMiesa Bonton, Executive Director

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